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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/870,878	05/30/2001	Vance M. Stephens	10003568-1	8982

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EXAMINER

RAHIMI, IRAJ A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2622

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/870,878	STEPHENS, VANCE M.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	(Iraj) Alan Rahimi	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. In papers filed on November 15, 2005 applicant requested reconsideration of the last office action.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims were considered persuasive and a new office action has been issued citing new prior art. The explanation provided in the remarks was acceptable regarding the rejection of claims 9 and 16 under USC 112, first paragraph. Rejection is therefore withdrawn. This action is Non-Final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Art Unit: 2622

4. Claims 1-8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohsumi et al. (US patent 6,052,552).

Regarding claim 1, Ohsumi discloses a method for printing an image on a print medium, comprising:

- positioning the print medium at a print zone (column 3, lines 21-25);
- determining actual medium size and/or medium placement characteristics (column 3, lines 32-35);
- using size and/or placement characteristics, shifting an image to be printed relative nominal size and/or medium placement characteristics (column 5, lines 1-15); and
- printing the shifted image on the medium (column 5, lines 1-15).

Regarding claim 2, Ohsumi discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the image extends from lateral edge to lateral edge of the medium (Column 4, lines 59-67). Ohsumi discloses that margins are determined by timing of image forming by the laser on the photoconductor. Such timing can be conceivably adjusted to leave margin of zero or no margin.

Regarding claim 3, Ohsumi discloses the method of Claim 1 wherein said actual medium size and/or placement characteristics include an absolute location of a point on a leading edge of the medium (column 3, lines 32-35).

Art Unit: 2622

Regarding claim 4, Ohsumi discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said actual medium size and/or placement characteristics include a skew characteristic a leading edge of the medium (Abstract).

Regarding claim 6, Ohsumi discloses the method of Claim 1 wherein said actual medium size and/or placement characteristics include a medium width characteristic (column 4, lines 37-44).

Regarding claim 9, Ohsumi discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said shifting said image includes shifting the position of the print medium along a media feed path (column 4, lines 10-18).

Regarding claim 10, Ohsumi discloses the method of claim 1 wherein an area of the image smaller than an area medium, so that margins are provided on the medium after said printing (see claim 2 argument).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2622

6. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohsumi et al. (US patent 6,052,552) in view of Kato (US patent 6,799,761).

Regarding claim 5, Ohsumi does not explicitly disclose the method of Claim 1 wherein said actual medium size and/or placement characteristics include medium length characteristic (column 4, lines 45-46).

Kato discloses in column 5, lines 61-67 and column 6, lines 1-12 that information relating to the length of the sheet is detected.

Ohsumi and Kato are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor that is image forming apparatus with mechanism for detecting position of recording medium.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person ordinary skill in the art to include length characteristics of the medium.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to control the roller advance in the printer for proper placement of the image.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ohsumi and Kato to obtain the invention as specified in claim 5.

7. Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohsumi et al. (US patent 6,052,552) in view of Mizubata et al. (US patent 6,888,650).

Art Unit: 2622

Regarding claim 7, Ohsumi does not disclose the method of claim 1 wherein said shifting said image includes digitally shifting the image in a direction aligned with or transverse to a medium advance axis.

Mizubata discloses this limitation in column 7, lines 36-42.

Ohsumi and Mizubata are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor that is image-forming apparatus and means to correct for skewness.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person ordinary skill in the art to digitally shift the image.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to correct for the misalignment of the image.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ohsumi and Mizubata to obtain the invention as specified in claim 7.

Regarding claim 8, Mizubata discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said shifting said image includes digitally rotating the image (column 7, lines 36-42).

8. Claims 11-14, 16, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohsumi et al. (US patent 6,052,552) in view of Wibbels et al. (US patent 6,118,950).

Regarding claim 11, Ohsumi discloses a method for duplex printing an image on a print medium, comprising:

positioning a front side of the print medium at a print zone (column 3, lines 33-35);

Art Unit: 2622

determining actual size and/or placement characteristic of the medium (column 3, lines 33-35);

printing a front side image on said front side (column 3, lines 41-61);

passing the print medium through a duplexing path to flip the print medium and present the back side of the print medium at the print zone for printing a back side image (column 3, lines 66-67 and column 4, lines 1-10);

measuring leading edge and absolute location characteristics of the flipped print medium (column 3, lines 33-35, after paper is turned over similar position detection is employed);

Although Ohsumi discloses in column 5, lines 1-15 the importance of aligning front and back images, he does not explain the method of alignment that is by calculating shift parameters to shift the back side image to align with the front side image placement and print a shifted back side image.

Wibbles discloses these limitations in column 5, lines 12-30 by shifting the front and back images for alignment of images.

Ohsumi and Wibbels are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor that is image reproduction with duplex mode.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person ordinary skill in the art to shift back side image to align with front side image

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to avoid subsequent cutting of copy sheet causing cutting away the images (Ohsumi- column 5, lines 9-15).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ohsumi and Wibbels to obtain the invention as specified in claim 11.

Art Unit: 2622

Regarding claim 12-14, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 2-4, are presented.

Regarding claims 16, 19 and 20, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 6, 9 and 10, are presented.

9. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohsumi et al. (US patent 6,052,552) in view of Wibbels et al. (6,118,950) and further in view of Kato (US patent 6,799,761).

Regarding claim 15, Ohsumi in view of Kato does not explicitly disclose the method of Claim 1 wherein said actual medium size and/or placement characteristics include medium length characteristic (column 4, lines 45-46).

Kato discloses in column 5, lines 61-67 and column 6, lines 1-12 that information relating to the length of the sheet is detected.

Ohsumi, Wibbels and Kato are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor that is image forming apparatus with duplex function.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person ordinary skill in the art to include length characteristics of the medium.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to control the roller advance in the printer for proper placement of the image.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ohsumi, Wibbels and Kato to obtain the invention as specified in claim 5.

Art Unit: 2622

Claims 17-18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohsumi et al. (US patent 6,052,552) in view of Wibbels et al. (6,118,950) and further in view of Mizubata et al. (US patent 6,888,650).

Regarding claim 17, Ohsumi in view of Wibbels do not discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said shifting said image includes digitally shifting the image in a direction aligned with or transverse to a medium advance axis.

Mizubata discloses this limitation in column 7, lines 36-42.

Ohsumi, Wibbels and Mizubata are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor that is image-forming apparatus and means to correct for skewness.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person ordinary skill in the art to digitally shift the image.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to correct for the misalignment of the image.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ohsumi, Wibbels and Mizubata to obtain the invention as specified in claim 7.

Regarding claim 18, Mizubata discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said shifting said image includes digitally rotating the image (column 7, lines 36-42).

Art Unit: 2622

Other Prior Art Cited

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Yoshida et al. (US patent 6,718,071) discloses image reading apparatus capable of correcting skew error.

Watanabe (US patent 4,755,855) discloses image forming apparatus with a forming position correction.

Loffler (US patent 6,429,945) discloses method of correcting the position of an image to be printed on a printing material.


Madeley (US patent 6,637,329) discloses method of improving registration of images on opposing sides of a printing mechanism.

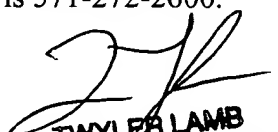
Contact Information

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to (Iraj) Alan Rahimi whose telephone number is 571-272-7411. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L Coles can be reached on 571-272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2600.


Alan Rahimi
February 1, 2006


TWYLER LAMB
PRIMARY EXAMINER